

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 08592 092159Z

61

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 092026Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4226

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8592

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MX US

SUBJ: TOPICS FOR PRESIDENTIAL MEETING: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS/BRACEROS

REF: MEXICO 7647

1. PRESIDENT ESCHEVERRIA HAS INDICATED THAT HE PLANS TO RAISE THIS ISSUE DURING FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD. FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND COMMENT IS FOR DEPARTMENT'S USE IN PREPARING BRIEFING PAPERS FOR THE MEETING.

2. GOM POSITION: MEXICO RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE LARGE NUMBERS OF MEXICAN CITIZENS ILLEGALLY IN THE U.S. AND ARGUES (1) THAT THESE "TEMPORARY" WORKERS ARE NEEDED BY THE U.S. AND (2) THAT THEY ARE BADLY AND UNFAIRLY TREATED IN THE U.S. GOM BELIEVES SOLUTION IS A NEW BRACERO (TEMPORARY WORKER) AGREEMENT. DURING HIS AUGUST CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, SECRETARY RABASA SUGGESTED A CONCRETE NEW PROPOSAL ALONG THESE LINES INVOLVING AN ANNUAL QUOTA OF MEXICAN BRACEROS TO ENTER THE U.S. THE QUOTA MIGHT BE ADJUSTED ACCORDING TO NEED. UNDER THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT, RIGHTS OF MEXICAN WORKERS WOULD BE PROTECTED AND, SO FAR AS THE GOM IS CONCERNED, THEY MIGHT JOIN U.S. LABOR UNIONS. RABASA HAS SINCE PROMISED TO REDUCE THIS PROPOSAL TO WRITING BUT HAS NOT YET DONE SO. (HE HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN OUT OF COUNTRY FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS.) UNDERSTANDABLY, PERHAPS, THE GOM FOCUS OF INTEREST IS MORE ON A NEW BRACERO-TYPE PROGRAM THAN ON THE PROBLEMS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS POST FOR THE

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 08592 092159Z

USG. MEXICANS BELIEVE A NEW PROGRAM WOULD ALLEVIATE THE

PROBLEM OF ILLEGALS BUT DO NOT ARGUE THAT SUCH PROGRAM WOULD STOP THE FLOW. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, RABASA COMMENTED THAT IF A NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT WERE CONCLUDED, MEXICO WOULD TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT EGRESS OF ILLEGALS. HOWEVER, WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT PREVIOUS MEXICAN ASSERTIONS THAT THERE MIGHT BE MEXICAN LEGAL OR CONSTITUTIONAL BARS TO SUCH MEASURES, HE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WAS INDEED A PROBLEM AND WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY. STILL MORE RECENTLY, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA PRIVATELY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT MEXICO WAS AT FAULT IN PERMITTING THE LARGE FLOW OF ILLEGALS AND SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS MEASURES TO DIMINSH THE FLOW. SUCH MEASURES MIGHT INCLUDE LONG-RANGE AGRICULTURAL AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING A "FRIENDLY BARRIER" OF MEXICAN OFICIALS TO DIVERT PROSPECTIVE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO OTHER GOALS THAN ENTRY INTO THE U.S.

3. U.S. POSITION ON ISSUE WAS MOST RECENTLY SET FORTH, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF JULY 26, 1974.

4. IN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S MOST RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE HE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ILLEGALS/BRACERO PROBLEM IS BASICALLY MEXICO'S AND THAT MEXICO MUST SOLVE IT. IT SEEMS LIKELY, NEVERTHELESS, THAT HE WILL PROPOSE DURING THE MEETING THAT A NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT BE REACHED. HE MAY ALSO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE WELFARE OF MEXICAN CITIZENS IN THE UNITED STATES, WHETHER IN LEGAL OR ILLEGAL STATUS. ON OCCASION, MEXICANS HAVE ARGUED THAT U.S. ESTABLISH A PERMANENT INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE (SUCH AS EXISTS WITHIN GOM) TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. ECHEVERRIA IS PRESUMABLY AWARE OF LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MONTOYA TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO STUDY PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL ALIENS IN U.S. HE IS NOT AWARE OF INS INTENTION, OF WHICH EMBASSY RECENTLY INFORMED, TO UNDERTAKE STUDY ALONG SIMILAR LINES.  
JOVA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MIGRATORY WORKERS, IMMIGRATION CONTROL, PROPOSALS (BID)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 OCT 1974  
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**Subject:** TOPICS FOR PRESIDENTIAL MEETING: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS/BRACEROS  
**TAGS:** PBOR, MX, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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